GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3198
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2016
Ban on Indian Agricultural Products
Kharge Shri Mallikarjun ;Kumar Shri P.

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether some countries have imposed a ban on the import of various agricultural products from India;
(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, product and country-wise indicating the time period of the ban;
(c) the details of losses incurred by Indian farmers as a result thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard;
(d) whether the Government proposes to launch a new agricultural export policy aiming to boost overseas shipment of agricultural products from India; and
(e) if so, the details thereof along with the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

(a) Yes, Madam.

(b) The European Union had placed an import restriction on five fruits and vegetables species from India viz. Mangifera (Mango), Momordica (Bitter gourd), Trichosanthes (Snake gourd), Solanum melongena (egg plant) and Colocasia leaves (taro) with effect from May, 2014.

This step was taken due to interceptions of export consignment originating from India that were not compliant with EU Phytosanitary regulations.

As a result of efforts made by the Indian Government, EU lifted ban on import of Indian mangoes in February, 2015. EU has now recognized India's efforts for effective plant health control system with improved level of compliance for consignment of fresh fruits and vegetables exported to EU and has decided not to prolong the ban imposed on the import of four vegetables (Bitter gourd, snake gourd, brinjal and colocasia) beyond 31.12.2016.

(c) It is not feasible to quantify the losses suffered by the farmers due to such bans as alternative avenues for marketing of the produce, both domestic and international, are always available.

(d) The Government is not contemplating any new agricultural export policy at this stage.

(e) Does not arise in view of (d) above.

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